

# Intense and Compact Neutron Sources (ICONS) BAA DARPA-BAA-14-62 Frequently Asked Questions

**Updated as of 10/7/2014**

**27.) The description for TA1 calls for a total power budget of 400W. However, at 150kV, the total desired DT neutron yield of  $1 \times 10^{10}$  n/sec/sr will require approximately 4-5mA of deuterium beam current, based on our preliminary calculations. Thus, the total beam power of 600-750W would exceed the total power limitation. Please comment on this seeming inconsistency.**

A: The power budget is aggressive but calculated to be achievable for fully loaded targets. See for example L.A. Shope, Sandia Technical Report SC-TM-66-247, 1966.

**26.) Is CW operation desired?**

A: Pulsed operation is a desired secondary objective as indicated in the BAA, with the stated average neutron rate a primary metric.

**25.) Do you have requirements or desired specifications for the pulse structure (e.g. pulse width, duty cycle, rise/fall time, etc.) when operating in a pulsed mode?**

A: Please state clearly what can be achieved for the proposed system and the advantages of the specified pulsing capabilities for CONOPS of interest.

**24.) Is it acceptable to have electronics and/or power sources connected to the neutron source via a tether?**

A: The SWaP metrics are aggressive and include the entire system to ensure human-portability. It is acceptable for the system to use standard wall-plug power through a cable instead of batteries.

**23.) For TA1, the notional architecture metric for SWAP is 8 L, 30 lbs, 400W. Does this include all components in the system (e.g. 400 W power supply, cables, etc.)?**

A: Yes. The SWaP metrics are aggressive and include the entire system to ensure high-portability. It is acceptable for the system to use standard wall-plug power through a cable instead of batteries.

**22.) How do we submit a proposal?**

A: Proposals must be submitted per the instructions outlined in Section IV.E of the BAA

**21.) How do we submit an abstract?**

A: Abstracts must be submitted per the instructions outlined in Section IV.E of the BAA.

**20.) As a foreign institution, what is our TIN number?**

A: As a proposing foreign institution, this is not applicable.

**19.) How do we determine the name, address, and telephone number of our cognizant Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) audit office?**

A: Please visit <http://www.dcaa.mil> to find your DCAA Office.

**18.) Q: How do we determine the name, address, and telephone number of the our cognizant Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) administration office or ONR office?**

A: Please visit <https://www.dcmamail> to find your DCMA Office.

**17.) Q: Is Section VI.B.10 of the BAA regarding unpaid delinquent tax liabilities or felony conviction representations relevant for foreign universities?**

A: This requirement is not applicable to foreign universities.

**16.) Q: How do we submit a proposal if requesting a grant?**

A: Procurement contracts, cooperative agreements, and other transactions are the types of funding instruments that may awarded as a result of this solicitation.

**15.) Q: Can a prime or collaborator be an international company?**

A: Per Section III.A of the BAA, international companies and universities are acceptable so long as they comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances.

**14.) Q: Is subcontracting to a National Lab or Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) permitted?**

A: Per the BAA, FFRDCs and National Labs are subject to direct competition limitations and must establish their eligibility to propose to Government solicitations by meeting the conditions listed in Section III.A.

**13.) Q: Will any response be provided to abstracts?**

A: Per Section IV.B.1 of the BAA, DARPA will respond via email as to whether there is interest in DSO for the proposed research.

**12.) Q: Is an executive summary slide required for a proposal abstract submission?**

A: Yes, see Section IV.B.1 of the BAA. A template is provided as Attachment 1 to the announcement on <https://www.FBO.gov>.

**11.) Q: What is the page limit for an abstract?**

A: Per Section IV.B of the BAA, the abstract should not exceed 8 pages, excluding the cover sheet, official transmittal letter (optional), and executive summary slide.

**10.) Q: What is an official transmittal letter?**

A: An official transmittal letter is a brief, signed statement on your organization letterhead from an authorized person within your organization acknowledging/endorsing the proposed research. There is no template for such a letter.

**9.) Q: What is the overall DARPA budget for DARPA-BAA-14-62? Are there funding limits for individual proposals?**

A: At this time, no single-project funding limits have been set. Per Section II of the BAA, the amount of resources made available under this BAA will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the availability of funds.

**8.) Q: How many awards are anticipated?**

A: Multiple awards are anticipated; however, the number of awards will depend on the merits of the proposals received and availability of funds.

**7.) Q. Are potential applications to be defined by the proposers?**

A. Yes, proposers must define the area of DoD impact and clearly describe how the application will drive interim milestones.

**6.) Q: Is my topic consistent with the objectives of the BAA?**

A: The BAA describes the areas of interest; specific research approaches are up to each proposer. If you feel that your chosen effort is consistent with the objectives of the BAA and capable of meeting the goals stated therein, then you should feel free to propose them. It is strongly encouraged that you read the BAA carefully. It is your burden to make clear within your proposal that your approach is supportive of your innovative claims, and includes a detailed analysis of the technical motivation.

**5.) Q: Is my research of interest to DARPA?**

A: DSO will not comment on research approaches submitted via email. The best way to receive feedback on the suitability of your concept is through the actual submission of an abstract in accordance with the instructions outlined in Section IV.E of the BAA. Only abstracts submitted through official channels can be reviewed.

**4.) Q: Can I schedule a meeting or telephone call with a program manager?**

A: You are welcome to review our DSO personnel pages ([http://www.darpa.mil/Our\\_Work/DSO/Personnel/](http://www.darpa.mil/Our_Work/DSO/Personnel/)) and email the program manager to see if your topic is within scope, but they will be under no obligation to respond.

**3.) Q: Where should a biosketch/curriculum vitae (CV)/resume be included in my proposal?**

A: CVs/resumes are not specifically requested in the BAA; however, a discussion of a proposer's previous accomplishments should be included in Section IV.B.2.a.viii of the Volume I, Technical and Management Proposal. Should you decide to include CVs or resumes, they will count towards the Volume I page limit.

**2.) Q: Do individual Principal Investigators need to register at <https://baa.darpa.mil/> or should registration be handled through an organizational account?**

A: You may have individual accounts or one organizational account that is used for all submissions - it is at the discretion of your organization. It is recommended that you contact your office of sponsored research (or similar) to decide how submissions should be handled at your organization.

**1.) Q: What is my DUNS/CAGE/TIN number?**

A: It is likely that an official in your office of sponsored research (or similar) would have access to these numbers and be able to provide them to you. If not, further information regarding these numbers can be found below:

TIN: A Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) is an identification number used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the administration of tax laws. It is issued either by the Social Security Administration (SSA) or by the IRS.

See <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/Taxpayer-Identification-Numbers-%28TIN%29> for information on requesting a TIN. Note, requests may take 1 business day to 1 month depending on the method (online, fax, mail).

DUNS: The DUNS number is used as the Government's contractor identification code for all procurement-related activities. Go to <http://www.sba.gov/content/getting-d-u-n-s-number> or <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/index.jsp> to request a DUNS number (may take at least one business day).

CAGE: A Commercial And Government Entity (CAGE) Code identifies companies doing or wishing to do business with the Federal Government. If a proposer does not already have a CAGE code, one will be assigned during registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). See [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) for further information.